AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION’S DOMAIN:

Career Development

**Standard B:** Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.

**Competency 1. Acquire Career Information**

**Indicator e.** Use research and information resources to obtain career information

**Indicator f.** Learn to use the Internet to access career-planning information

**ACTIVITY:** Developing a Career Research Project.

**TARGET GROUP:** Middle School (end of 7th grade/beginning of 8th grade)

**GOAL:** Students will produce a written research report and present an oral report based on information about their desired career.

**SUMMARY:**

**MATERIALS:**

- Instructor Notes
- Computers with Internet access for students
- Computer with the ability to project on to a large screen for the instructor
- Projector
- Handout: *Guidelines for the Career Research Project*
- Handout: *Format for the Career Research Project*
- Handout: *California CareerZone Interest Assessment*
- Poster paper for each student

**STRATEGIES:**

- Introduction to the subject (see Instructor Notes, Section I).
- Distribute the *Guidelines for the Career Research Project*.
- Review the information before having the students begin work on the computer.
- Distribute the *Format for the Career Research Project* and review the instructions on
how to format the written part of the project.

- Students need to have a career in mind to research. If the students have a California Career Center (www.calcareercenter.org) “My Stuff” account, they can choose a career from the three career interests they identified on their Putting It All Together worksheet. If the students do not have an account and do not have a career in mind, refer them to the California CareerZone website. Distribute the California CareerZone handout to walk them through how to find a career that interests them.

- When all students have a career in mind, allow them time to navigate the occupational website on the California CareerZone (www.cacareerzone.org) to gather the required information. Note: Students identified occupations in the “Where am I Going? Crosswalking to Careers” lesson.

- The students will need time to transfer their information into the report format and find pictures for the title page.

- This project is scheduled for three class periods with part one of the project done outside of school (the interview). Orchestrate the details to best fit your time constraints and the needs of the students.

- After the oral presentations have been completed and the written reports turned in, administer the one-question survey.

- Closing Statements (see Instructor Notes, Section II).

ESTIMATED TIME: 2 class periods

EVALUATION TOOL:

I feel the information I gained doing the Career Research Project was (1) Very Helpful, (2) Helpful, (3) Somewhat Helpful as I think about my future plans. Which part of the project was most helpful to you?
MIDDLE SCHOOL
GUIDELINES FOR THE CAREER RESEARCH PROJECT HANDOUT

PART ONE: WRITTEN

PAGE 1 – TITLE PAGE

1. Name of occupation
2. Your name
3. Several pictures related to this occupation

PAGE 2 – CAREER INFORMATION PAGE

1. You will find the information for this project on the California CareerZone website at www.cacareerzone.org.
2. On the homepage, place the cursor on the word “Explore” on the top of the page.
3. Scroll down to “All Occupations” and click.
4. In the right corner is the “Search” box, type in your job title and select return. If no results are returned, modify the job title you entered into the search box.
5. Click on the occupation that most closely matches your desired career title.
6. This will take you to a page where you can read in detail about your career choice and gather the information you need for page two of your report.
7. Title this page: “Aspects About My Career”
   
   • **About the Job** (In your own words, write down what someone in this job does).
   • **It Is Also Called** (List three other job titles that relate to your career).
   • **What They Do** (Read the many activities listed and choose three that interest you the most).
   • **Education Required** (This is the schooling needed after high school to be ready for this job; list it).
   • **Wages** (This is how much money you could be earning a year in this job).
   • **Common College Majors** (If you need additional schooling after high school for this job, this category lists the things you could be studying; read all the areas of study and choose one that looks the most interesting).
1. You will find the information for the top of this page on the California CareerZone website.

2. On the homepage, place the cursor on the word “Decide” at the top of the page.

3. Scroll down to “The Cost of College” and click.

4. When the next page appears, click on “Get Started.”

5. In the textbox, type in your occupation title and click on “Find.”

6. If more than one title appears, scroll to the one that is closest to your career choice and click on it.

7. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Choose a College.”

8. A list of colleges will appear; choose one and click on it (you might ask your school counselor or instructor which colleges are California public colleges and are near where you live).

9. “Cost of College Results” page will appear and will list the name of the college you chose on the first line and the required tuition for your program in the Education Costs textbox. If the college you choose does not have tuition information, the Education Costs textbox will be blank.

10. Title the top of this page – COST OF COLLEGE
    • List the name of the first college you chose and the annual tuition.
    • List the name of the second college you chose and the annual tuition.

1. Title the middle of the page – MY OBSERVATIONS.

2. This is where you get to share what you have learned about the occupation you chose to research for this project.

3. What new information did you learn about the career you researched?

4. Do you see yourself in this job in 15 years? Why or why not?

5. Is there anything else you would like to share about doing this project?
PART TWO: ORAL PRESENTATION

Interview a person who has the job/career you are researching, or in similar career. You will be sharing this information with the class as an oral presentation. Ask the person you are interviewing the following questions and take notes on his/her answers:

1. Why did you choose this job/career?
2. What do you do in a typical day?
3. What education and/or training did you need for this job/career?
4. How long have you been working in this job/career?
5. What do you like best about your job/career?
6. What do you like least about your job/career?
7. What advice would you give me right now knowing that I am interested in a job/career like yours?

Dress in clothes that appropriately represent your chosen career or job as you give your presentation to the class from the notes you took on your interview.

Create a collage of pictures and clippings to be displayed on poster paper during your oral presentation. The pictures are to show people working in the career field you chose to research.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
FORMAT FOR THE CAREER RESEARCH PROJECT HANDOUT

PAGE 1 – TITLE PAGE

NAME OF CAREER

by

Your Name

(Action pictures of people working in this career)

PAGE 2 – CAREER INFORMATION PAGE

ASPECTS ABOUT MY CAREER

*ABOUT THE JOB

*IT IS ALSO CALLED

*WHAT THEY DO

*EDUCATION REQUIRED

*WAGES

*COMMON COLLEGES MAJORS
# Cost of College

*C. College Name, Tuition

*C. College Name, Tuition

## My Observations

*List new information you learned

*Do you see yourself in this job in 15 years?
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CALIFORNIA CAREERZONE INTEREST ASSESSMENT HANDOUT

2. Scroll to top of page and click on “Explore.”
3. Scroll down to “Quick Assessment.”
4. Follow the directions which will lead to three general interest areas.
5. Click on “View Results.”
6. Scroll through the occupations listed and find one that you would like to use for your career research project.
7. Click on that occupation and use the research information for your report.
I. Introduction to the subject:

This research project will start you thinking about specifics in a career. You will be using the Internet to do an in-depth study on a career that you are interested in. You will be looking at the job description, the activities that relate to that job, the education required, and the salary paid for doing the work. In addition, you will be interviewing someone who works in that field and sharing your information with the class.

II. Closing statements:

This career research project is one of the most important projects you have done this year. The information you gained can be used to make course and activity selections when updating your Course Planning Worksheet. You are planning your future now!

III. COLLECTING RESULTS DATA:

Process Data: Number of students who completed the research project.

Perception Data - Survey

I feel the information I gained doing the Career Research Project was (Very Helpful, Helpful, Somewhat Helpful) as I think about my future plans (short-term data).